

**In Support of SB 456, An Act Concerning Harassment, Electronic Harassment, and Cyberstalking
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing, March 29, 2012**

Senator Fox, Representative Coleman, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Paula Broderick and I am a registered voter in the town of New Britain. I am the Prevention and Education Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service of the YWCA New Britain and a past Shelter Advocate for the Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain. I am also a survivor of domestic and sexual violence.

I am writing you today to urge you to pass SB 456, An Act Concerning Harassment, Electronic Harassment, and Cyberstalking.

As a Shelter Advocate I saw firsthand the continued harassment and threat women experience by way of today's technologies. Abusers use social media, emails and texts to continue their attempts to control their victims. An activated GPS feature on a cell phone can be used to locate women and children in a shelter just when they feel they are safe.

My abuser used to stalk me in the old-fashioned way by leaving notes on my windshield and telling me what my daughter and I had done that day.

The intent of the abuser is the same, to intimidate and create fear in their victim. The message to the victim is: you will never be free of me.

I ask you today to send a clear message to those who stalk their victims by means of today's technology. In the great state of Connecticut these behaviors are unacceptable and are punishable under the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paula Broderick